

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9871

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: LE PLO MO PFOR

SUBJECT: LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ASKS HASSAN'S AID

1. SUMMARY: A LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION HAS ASKED THAT KING HASSAN USE HIS INFLUENCE TO HELP CREATE PEACEFUL CONDITIONS IN LEBANON SO THAT PALESTINIANS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY THERE. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS, A LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MET SEPTEMBER 17 WITH AHMED BENSOU DA, DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL CABINET. THE DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF MOHAMED ZAHDI NACHACHIBI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, AND OF THE LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT; HANI FAKHOURI, OF THE LEBANESE MOVEMENT FOR THE SUPPORT OF FATAH; AND, MAZIN AL-HUSSAINI, MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S ARAB CONFERENCE.

3. AFTER DETAILING FOR BENSOU DA THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND PRAISING KING HASSAN'S EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, THE DELEGATION ASKED BENSOU DA TO
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TRANSMIT TO THE KING THEIR DESIRE THAT HE UNDERTAKE SOME APPROACHES

TO PUT AN END TO THE COMBAT AND TO ASSURE RESPECT FOR THE CEASE-FIRE ON ALL LEBANESE FRONTS. THE DELEGATION ALSO WANTED THE KING TO PLAY HIS PART IN OBTAINING OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES' AID IN CREATING A PEACEFUL SETTING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT SARKIS' ACCESSION TO POWER. SARKIS WAS ALSO TO BE ENCOURAGED BY THE KING TO UNDERTAKE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN ALL THE PARTIES IN ORDER TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE LEBANESE PROBLEM, A SOLUTION GUARANTEEING TO THE PALESTINIANS THEIR RIGHTS TO PLAY A ROLE IN LEBANON "CONFORMING TO THE ACCORDS CONCLUDED WITH THE LEGITIMATE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES."

4. THE DELEGATION ALSO MET WITH OPPOSITION USFP AND ISTIQLAL LEADERS. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH USFP CALLED, IN PART, FOR WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES; PREPARATION OF AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A "NATIONALIST, DEMOCRATIC LEBANON," RENDERING MORAL, MATERIAL, AND HUMAN SUPPORT TO THE PLO; LIFTING THE BLOCKADE AND SEIGE OF LEFTIST ZONES IN LEBANON; AND, CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM AND REACTION.

5. MEANWHILE, THE GOM HAS YET TO PRONOUNCE ITSELF PUBLICLY ON THE ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANON. A FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE TOLD US THAT FONMIN LARAKI WAS LEAVING TIME IN HIS SCHEDULE TO ATTEND, BUT LARAKI TOLD A WESTERN AMBASSADOR ON SEPTEMBER 21 THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY SUMMIT.

6. COMMENT: KING HASSAN HAS LONG PLAYED A VERBALLY AND FINANCIALLY SUPPORTIVE ROLE FOR THE PALESTINIANS, BUT HE IS PROBABLY UNWILLING TO DAMAGE CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS WITH SYRIA BY MORE THAN FURTHER LIP-SERVICE SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS, AS THEY CHURN THROUGH THE LEBANESE SNAKE-PIT. AT THE SAME TIME, HE MUST CONTEND WITH CONSIDERABLE LOCAL SYMPATHY FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

7. PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS ON OCCASION MAKE CALLS ON HIGH OFFICIALS IN RABAT, AND ARE SOMETIMES EVEN RECEIVED BY THE KING. WE DO NOT VIEW THIS LATEST VISIT AS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT, BUT RATHER AS ONE WHICH PROVIDED AN OCCASION TO THE GOVERNMENT TO RENEW ITS COMMITMENT TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE WITHOUT OFFENDING ANYONE. END COMMENT.
ANDERSON

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